



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact:
media@myfloridahouse.gov
(850) 717-5780

Speaker Sprowls: Balanced Budget Makes Record Long-Term Investments in Environment, Reserves, More

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (April 27, 2021) — Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, heralded the balanced state budget unveiled today as one that makes record investments in flooding mitigation, education, and \$6 billion in budget reserves. The 2021 General Appropriations Act (SB 2500), serves to prepare Florida today for a better tomorrow. He also thanked Senate President Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, and Senate Appropriations Chair Kelli Stargel, R-Lakeland, for their spirit of cooperation throughout the process. He highlighted the hard work of House Appropriations Committee Chair Jay Trumbull, R-Panama City, House Appropriations Committee members and staff as strong advocates for House priorities.

“Working together with our partners in the Senate, we were able to craft a budget that funds immediate needs and also long-term priorities for the future,” said Speaker Sprowls. “In the greenest budget in Florida’s history, we respond to the needs of our state in areas like flooding mitigation, state park maintenance and water quality. We provide unprecedented levels of budget reserves, make record investments in higher-education funding, fund an overhaul of our workforce system and extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from two months to a full year.”

“We worked hard to balance the short-term areas of concern and long-term needs of our state in our budget,” said House Appropriations Committee Chair Trumbull. “We make smart, good-government investments into programs that provide lasting benefits for generations. From unprecedented infrastructure funding to record investments into beach renourishment to bonuses for teachers and front-line workers, we make the right decisions for Florida’s future.”

The \$101.5 billion budget includes \$6.9 billion in federal funding from Medicaid increases and federal education stimulus funds. If those funds were not included, the budget would be \$94.6 billion, slightly above the \$92.3 billion budget approved last year.

An additional \$10 billion in non-recurring federal pandemic relief funds is anticipated; the budget accounts for \$6.7 billion of these dollars, contingent on the receipt of the funds. Remaining dollars are directed to the General Revenue Fund to further support reserves and prepare Florida for tomorrow.

This year's budget was finalized just as the U.S. Census Bureau released results showing Florida had almost 15 percent population growth over the last 10 years. "Florida grew by over 700 people each day in the last 10 years. That has a significant impact on the expectation of how we deliver services across our entire population, from public safety to health care to education to infrastructure, that need to be supported," said Speaker Sprowls.

The budget introduced today marked the start of the constitutionally mandated 72-hour cooling off period before a vote by both legislative chambers on Friday, April 30, the final day of the 2021 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature. Upon passage, the Legislature will deliver the budget to Governor DeSantis for his signature.

A summary of the conference report on SB 2500 is attached. For more information, please visit <https://myfloridahouse.gov/budget/>.

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